CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A creeper comprising opposed side rails; a pad supported between said side rails; and a plurality of caster assemblies attached to and supporting said side rails; each of said plurality of caster assemblies including a wheel having a wheel body with a radial surface wherein the width of the contact between said radial surface and a work surface upon which the creeper is placed is from about 50 to about 75 percent of the maximum width of said wheel body.

2. A creeper according to claim 1 wherein each said wheel of said plurality of caster assemblies further comprises a hub having including an axial bore, an inner rim proximate said axial bore, and an outer rim distanced from said inner rim by radial supports.

3. A creeper according to claim 2 wherein said axial bore is defined by a bearing.

4. A creeper according to claim 3 wherein said bearing is made of a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, acetal resin, polyolefin, polypropylene and nylon.

5. A creeper according to claim 1 wherein said wheel body is formed from material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, thermoplastic rubber, polyolefin, polypropylene and monoprene.

6. A creeper according to claim 5 wherein said wheel body has a hardness of from about 65 to about 85 on the Shore durometer hardness type D scale.

7. A creeper comprising opposed side rails; a pad supported between said side rails; and a plurality of caster assemblies attached to and supporting said side rails; each of said plurality of caster assemblies including a

wheel comprising a wheel body extending, in hemispherical or semi-elliptical cross section, from a hub.

8. A creeper according to claim 7, wherein said hub includes an axial bore, an inner rim proximate said axial bore, and an outer rim distanced from said inner rim by radial supports.

9. A creeper according to claim 8 wherein said axial bore is defined by a bearing.

10. A creeper according to claim 9 wherein said bearing is made of a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, acetal resin, polyolefin, polypropylene and nylon.

11. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein said wheel body is formed from material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, thermoplastic rubber, polyolefin, polypropylene and monoprene.

12. A creeper according to claim 11 wherein said wheel body has a hardness of from about 65 to about 85 on the Shore durometer hardness type D scale.

13. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein the width of the surface contact between said radial surface and a work surface upon which the creeper is placed is from about 50 to about 75 percent of the maximum width of said wheel body.

14. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein said side rails have a top and bottom surface, said top surface tapering toward said bottom surface to define a decreased cross section of said side rails, the decreased cross section of said side rails being positioned adjacent said pad.

15. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein each of said plurality of caster assemblies includes a top bearing bracket having a top race, said top bearing bracket being attached to one of said side rails such that said top race of said top bearing bracket lies wholly within the vertical profile of said side rail.

16. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein said plurality of caster assemblies are attached to said side rails without creating a protrusion on said top surface of said side rails.

17. A creeper according to claim 16 wherein said caster assemblies each include a top bearing bracket having a top race, and a bottom bearing bracket having a bottom race; a wheel assembly connected to said caster assembly between said top and bottom bearing brackets; top rolling elements retained within said top race between said top bearing bracket and a portion of said wheel assembly; and bottom rolling elements retained within said bottom race between said bottom bearing bracket and a portion of said wheel assembly.

18. A creeper according to claim 17 wherein each of said caster assemblies further include a kingpin, said bottom bearing bracket and said wheel assembly being held in operative position by said kingpin.

19. A creeper according to claim 18 wherein said top bearing bracket is secured to said bottom surface of said side rails by rivet nuts.